

Item No.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LOCAL ACCESS FORUM</u> <u>Thursday 7th July 2022 at 7pm</u> <u>WCC Northgate Conference Centre, Warwick</u></p>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<p>Present: Mike Patrick, Michael Orlik, Claire Sangster, Cllr Andy Wright, Sheila Cooper, John Hall, Diane Smith, Elizabeth Birtley, Kenneth Thomas, Byron Melia, Roger Waring, Vaughan Owen, Mike Murray, Via Teams: Gina Rowe & Sarah-Jane Cash</p> <p>Apologies: Joe Carroll, Robin Hickin, Crawford Davidson, Alex Le Marinel (CCC) Marion Borman (WCC), Keith Davenport (WCC)</p> <p>Members of the Public:</p> <p>Officers in Attendance: Steve Hawley (SMBC); Richard Barnard (WCC); Richard Thomas (CCC), David Pipe (CCC)</p> <p>Other attendees:</p> <p>Notes: Alistair Rigby (WCC)</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes from meeting on 28th April 2022 & matters arising Notes were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting. Actions progressed</p> <p>Consensus from April's meeting was that the presentation from Andy de Bell, Head of stakeholder engagement, BBV IPT reporting on HS2 Midlands North area was rushed with not enough time given to the meeting.</p> <p>Chair confirmed the retirement due to old age of Roger Stone as a LAF member. Roger was a founder member of LAF and his insight and contribution as a regular attendee will be greatly missed. All wished him well for the future.</p>	
3.	<p>Feedback on member training</p> <p>Feedback on the Highways legislation seminar for LAF members and officers by Ruth Stockley, Barrister, Kings Chambers was extremely good. Everyone enjoyed the morning including the way questions were taken and answered.</p> <p>It was proposed that more training be offered to members, although it was acknowledged that LAF does not have a budget to facilitate this.</p> <p>Chair to pass on thanks to Ruth Stockley</p>	MO

<p>4.</p>	<p>Presentation: Coventry Draft Transport Strategy – David Pipe, Senior Officer, Transport Strategy, CCC presented. The strategy provides a long term vision over 15 years of how transport demands will change in the future and includes an implementation plan for the first 5 years.</p> <p>The report includes intersection designs and segregated cycleways to encourage the shift away from car use to more sustainable low carbon travel. It also promotes ‘active travel’ and improvements to public transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Following public consultation in the spring, a final report is expected to go to Cabinet in autumn 2022.</p> <p>In response to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy is aligned with neighbouring authority transport plans to maximise connectivity on travel routes • Reducing the constraint of the Coventry ring road to cyclists and pedestrians moving in / out of the city centre is a key outcome • Low traffic zones will move more traffic on to main roads • Light rail route planned for City centre to University Hospital • Plan for railway line serving ‘Wasps stadium’ to be electrified with 2 trains per hour 	
<p>5</p>	<p>Discussion: The local bridleway network Lizzie Birtley presented her report behalf of the British Horse Society (BHS) highlighting the challenges faced by horses and horse riders when out on public roads and bridleways. BHS has over 18,000 members and aims to protect and promote the interests of all horses and those that care about them. 2021 Defra Equine Census data shows there were 14,000 passported horses in Warwickshire. In 2021 BHS Dead Slow campaign recorded 3,000 incidents involving horses on UK roads.</p> <p>Nationally, horse riders have access to approximately 20% of Rights of Way network; carriage drivers only 5% (Significantly lower in Solihull and Coventry).</p> <p>The report highlights a number of incidents and maintenance issues predominately in Warwickshire (which has the largest useable network) for RoW teams and HS2 to respond to.</p> <p>A discussion on network maintenance revealed that all three local authority RoW teams have had their maintenance budgets significantly reduced or removed all together resulting in some parts of the network being inaccessible to users including horse riders. Alternative funding sources identified included:</p>	

	<p>Rambler Associations; Parish Councils; Section 106 monies; County Councillor Delegated Budgets; BHS 'Ride Out Fund'</p> <p>In response to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horse-i app allows incident reports to be sent directly to BHS • All links in the report allow content to be downloaded free of charge <p>The following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RoW teams to respond to the incident log in the report to help improve equestrian access on the network • Write to all 3 local authorities to recommend an increase in RoW maintenance budgets to improve network accessibility 	<p>MB SH LM AR</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Discussion: Bridge infrastructure report</p> <p>John Hall presented his report having volunteered to respond on behalf of C,S&W LAF to a request from Tees Valley LAF in September 2021 highlighting concerns regarding Highways England's plans to infill/demolish disused railway bridges/structures over the coming years. By doing so, the ability would be lost to turn them into new access routes in the future.</p> <p>John's report provides historical context to the present day situation and suggests that the LAF seeks to be included in the list of consultee bodies for all plans regarding Historical Railways Estate structures within its area. Thereby the LAF could then consider any such case on its merits and respond accordingly.</p> <p>In his investigations John has found HE's Major Works Programme contains four bridges in Warwickshire, but none in Solihull or Coventry.</p> <p>The Warwickshire sites are listed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Alne = infill • Station Road, Stockton = Maintenance options under development • Radford Road = Infill • Weedon Warwickshire = Infill <p>It was agreed to notify the relevant district councils, as the local planning authorities, of the Forum's interest in these structures and asked to be consulted on any developments affecting the bridges.</p>	

7.	<p>Presentation: M42 New Junction 6 scheme. Impact on ROW & improving pedestrian connectivity –</p> <p>The presentation was not available. Steve Hawley, SMBC reported that the report author, Martin Follmer – Skanska Stakeholder, Customer and Communications Manager has left his position.</p> <p>Steve summarised that there are 7 footpaths affected, reopening on a phased basis from 2023.</p>	
8.	<p>Rights of Way team updates (WCC, CCC, SMBC)</p> <p><u>Warwickshire County Council (WCC)</u> Richard Barnard, RoW Officer (South Warks) presented. A new administrative support officer has been appointed to the team, starting in August. Rights of Way Improvement Plan is due for renewal in next couple of years and the process to look at it will start in the next few months. A contractor will be commissioned to do the work. The work will draw on other plans including the Walking & Cycling Strategy and the Local Transport Plan. The consultant intends to meet with the LAF as part of the process.</p> <p>Capital funding requests for the bridge at Sawbridge and a bridleway at Brailes has been turned down. Other funding sources are being considered</p> <p>RoW improvements at Alcester (steps) and Chesterton (bridge) received Section 106 monies</p> <p><u>Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)</u> Steve presented. The contractor, Idverde has completed RoW strimming programme for this year.</p> <p>Diversion Orders and DMMOs being progressed. Oak Lane, Barston - the Order now advertised.</p> <p><u>Coventry City Council (CCC)</u> Dick Thomas, Contractor, Transportation & Highways, CCC gave an update and offered to advise LAF as to how to approach HS2 to get meaningful input at LAF meetings. Dick has previously worked for HS2, Phase 2.</p>	
9.	<p>AOB Mike Patrick accepted offer to present a cycling report at future meeting</p>	MP

10.	<p>Suggested agenda items for next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling report – Mike Patrick • Tame Valley Wetlands Team – projects & site access – Gina Rowe, WWT • Transport for West Midlands – encouraging cycling across the West Midlands <p>https://www.tfwm.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-do/encouraging-cycling-in-the-west-midlands/</p>	
11.	<p>Date and venue for next meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 7pm 13th October 2022 at Northgate House Conference Centre, adjacent to Shire Hall, Warwick, WCC 	ALL